Overview of the Incident Command System

WHAT IS ICS?
ICS is the model tool for ***command, control***, and ***coordination*** of a response and provides a means to coordinate the efforts of <u>individual agencies</u> as they work toward the <u>common goal</u> of stabilizing the incident and protecting life, property, and the environment.
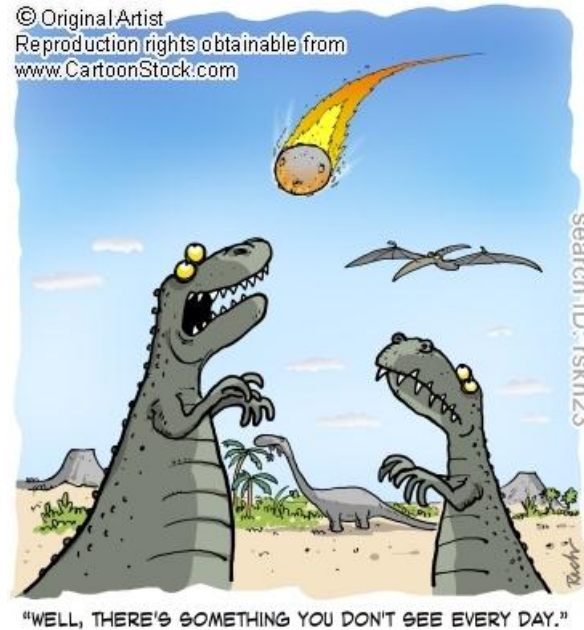
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Problems

Operating without an ICS system

- Reactive
- Defensive
- Plan not always communicated clearly
- Control over resources
- Logistics

Incident Command System (ICS)

Why Use ICS?
To ensure effective incident management.

ICS is a management system, not just an organizational chart.

History

- Mid-1970's   Firescope in California

- Mid- 1980's   USA Wildfire Agencies

- Late 1990's   Australia & New Zealand

- 2000   Canada

- 2001   USA All Risk (911 Attacks)
  - NIMS NFPA 1561

- 2003   South Africa ICS Working
                     Team Formed

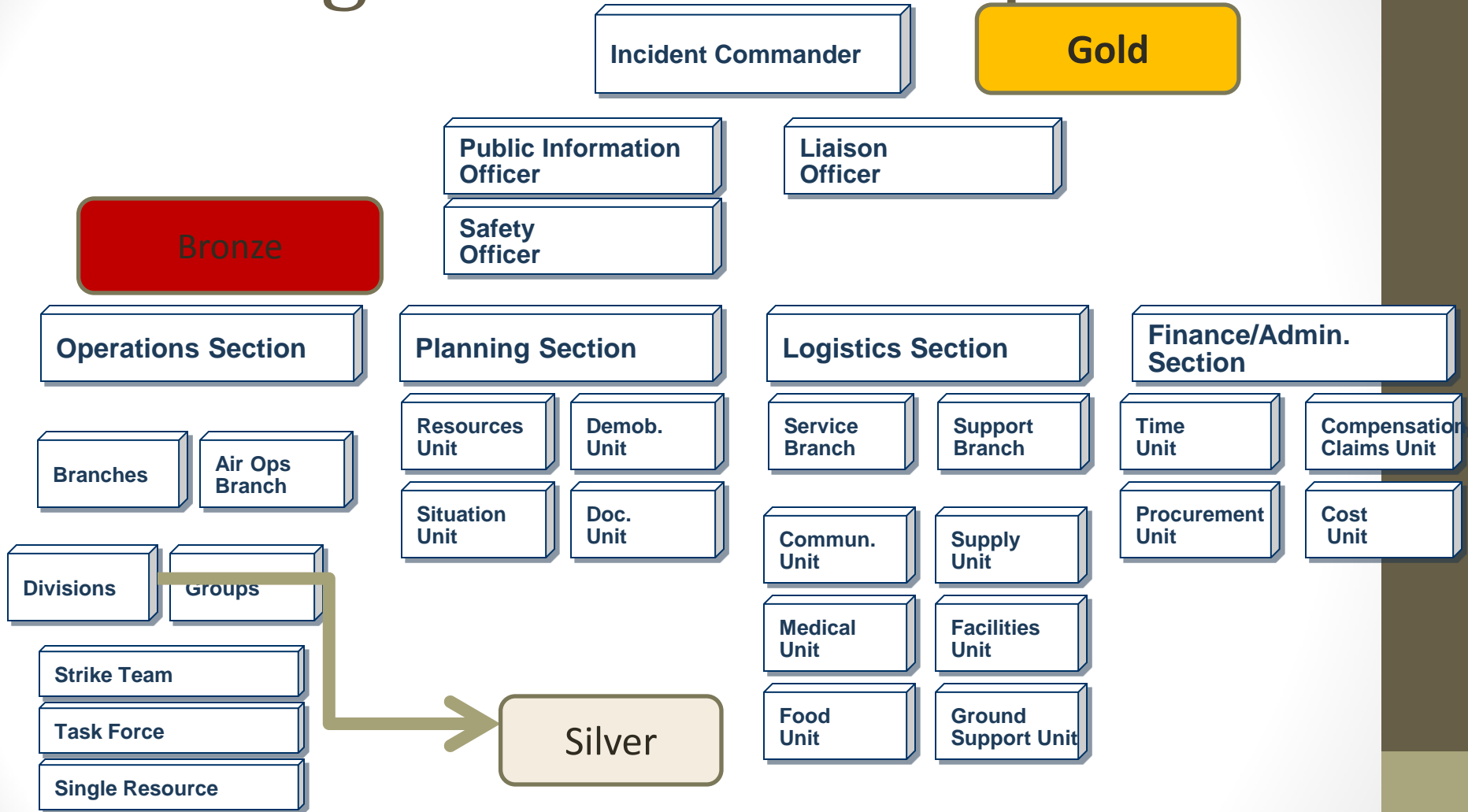- 2012   Western Cape Fire chiefs accepts
  - NIMS and NFPA 1561

Definition

The Incident Command System (ICS) is "a systematic tool used for the command, control, and coordination of emergency response"

Remember That ICS:

- Is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or nonemergency situations.

- Represents "best practices," and has become the standard for emergency management across USA, Australia New Zealand, several Africa and Europe Countries .UK Gold to silver same principle

- May be used for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism.

- Is a key feature of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
   - Adopted System in the Western Cape
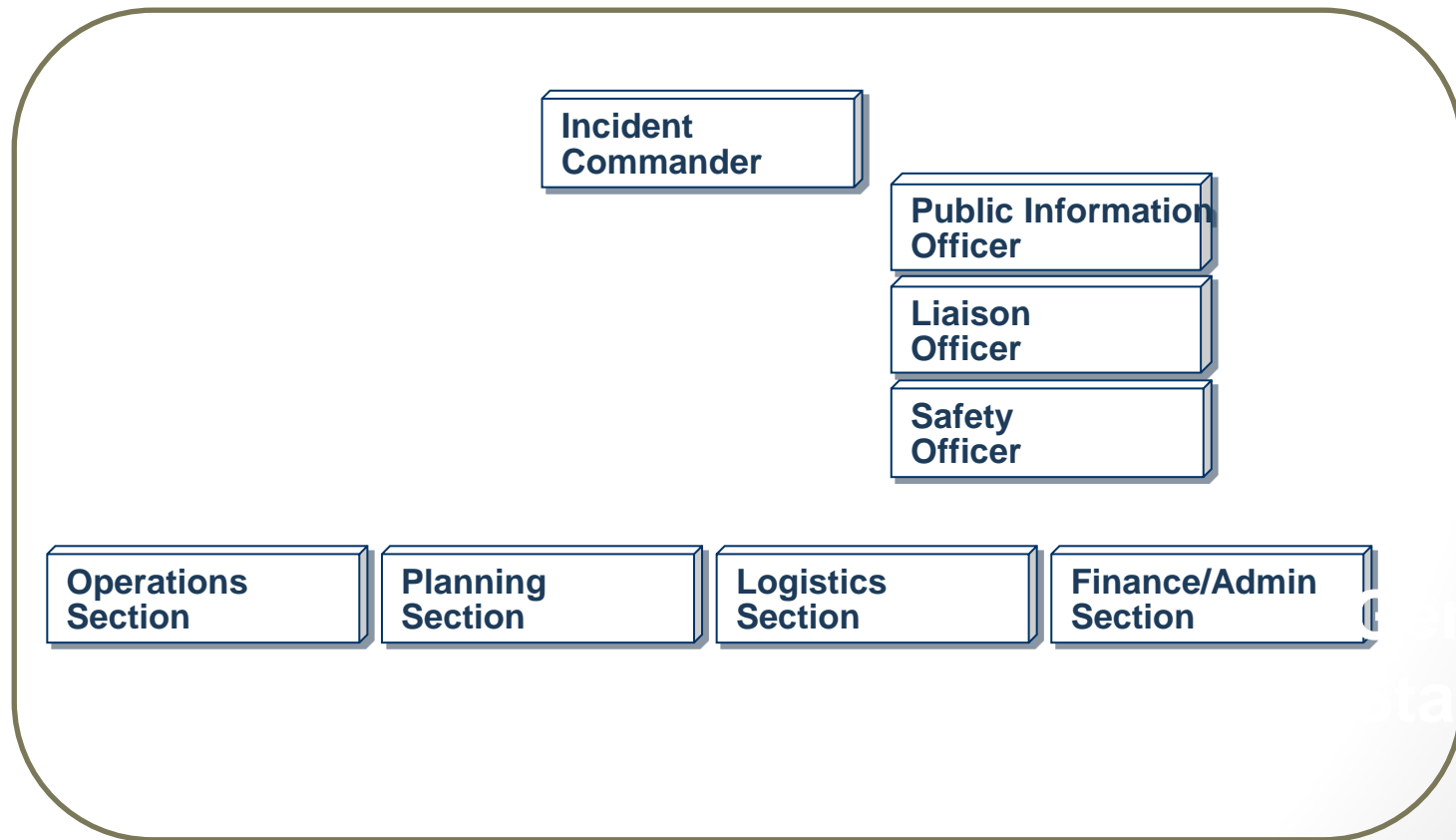
ICS Organizational Components

| Incident Commander | **Gold** |

| Public Information Officer | Liaison Officer |

Bronze

| Safety Officer |

| Operations Section | Planning Section | Logistics Section | Finance/Admin. Section |

Operations Section
- Branches
- Air Ops Branch
- Divisions
- Groups
- Strike Team
- Task Force
- Single Resource

Silver

Planning Section
- Resources Unit
- Demob. Unit
- Situation Unit
- Doc. Unit

Logistics Section
- Service Branch
- Support Branch
- Commun. Unit
- Supply Unit
- Medical Unit
- Facilities Unit
- Food Unit
- Ground Support Unit

Finance/Admin. Section
- Time Unit
- Compensation Claims Unit
- Procurement Unit
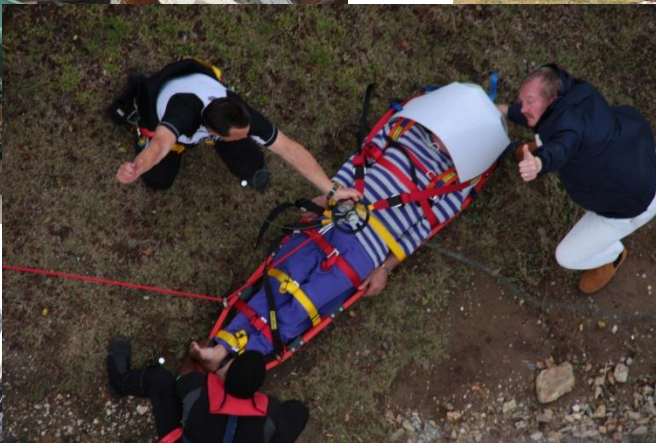- Cost Unit

Incident Commander

- First arriving responder is the incident commander (If you are the lead agency/service)

- Upon arriving at an incident the higher ranking person will either assume command, maintain command as is, or reassign command to a third party.
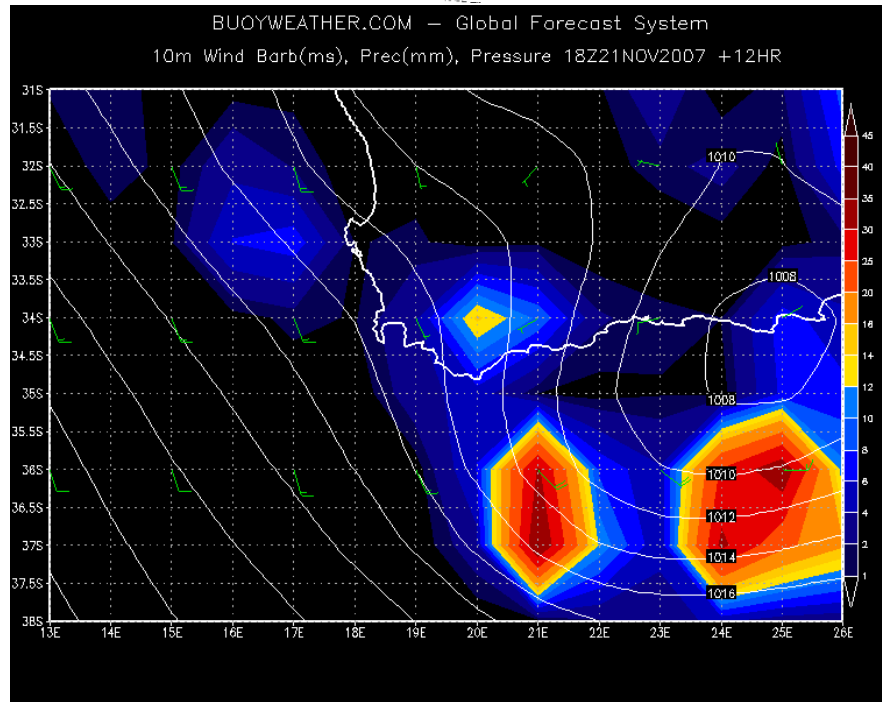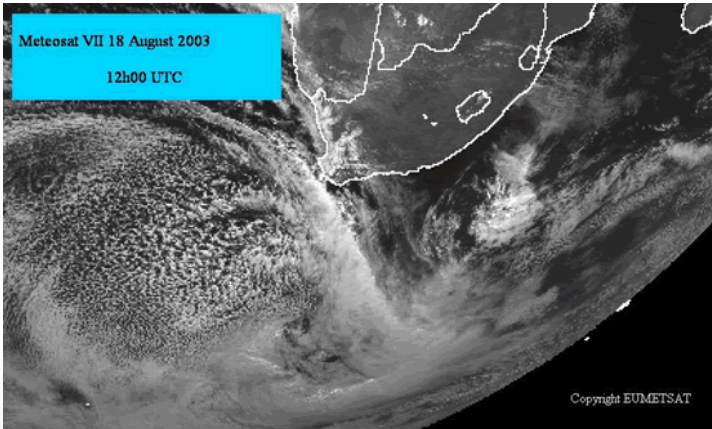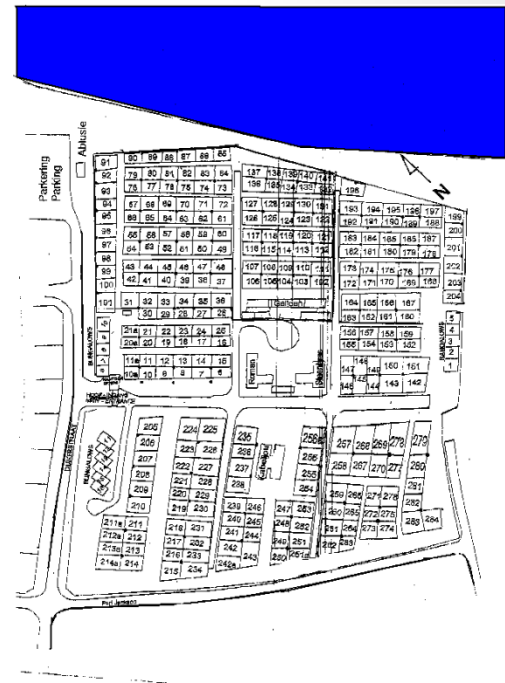
Incident Commander

- The Incident Commander performs all ICS functions unless these are activated.

Meteosat VII 18 August 2003
12h00 UTC
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BUOYWEATHER.COM — Global Forecast System
10m Wind Barb(ms), Prec(mm), Pressure 18Z21NOV2007 +12HR

Expanding Incidents

An Incident Commander can activate and delegate authority to Section Chiefs, Branch Directors, Division or Group Supervisors, and Team or Unit Leaders.
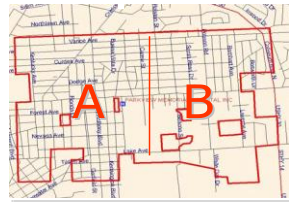
Command
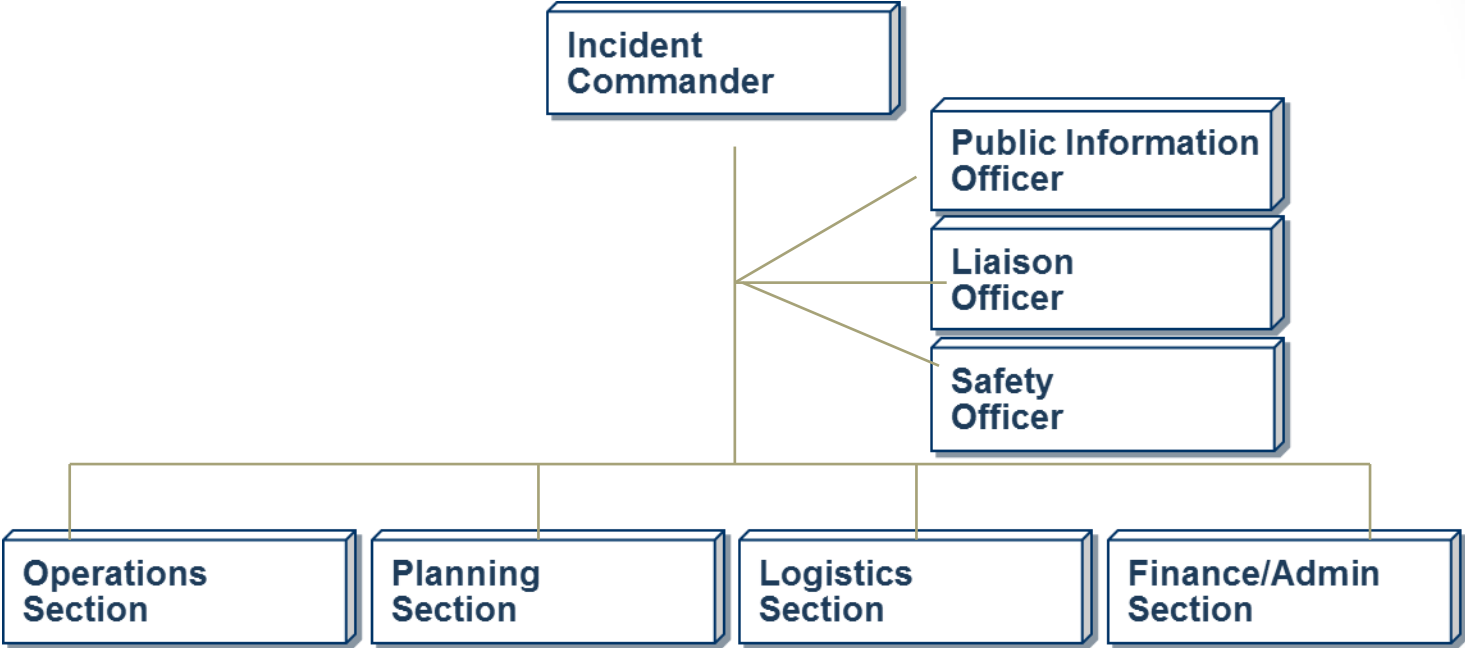
Sections

Branches

Leaders

Divisions

Groups

Single Resources

Flexibility and Standardization

- Standardization does NOT limit flexibility.

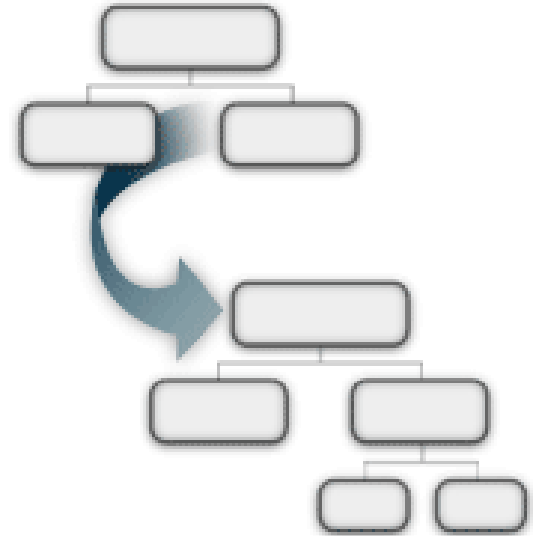- ICS works for small, routine operations as well as catastrophic events.

ICS Toolbox

Modular Organization

- Incident command organizational structure is based on:

  - Size and complexity of the incident.

  - Specifics of the hazard environment created by the incident.

  - Incident planning process and incident objectives.

ICS Expansion and Contraction

- Although there are no hard-and-fast rules, remember that:

  - Only functions/positions that are necessary are filled.

  - Each activated element must have a person in charge.

  - An effective span of control must be maintained.1 :5 (7)
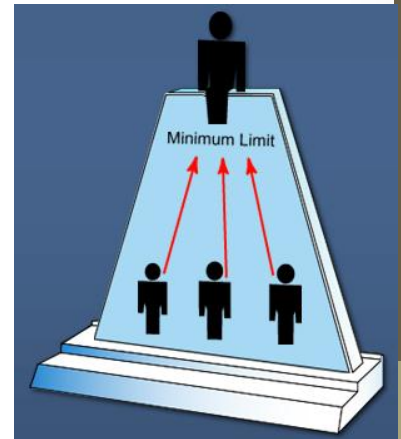
World Cup 2010

Joint Operations Command

Hermanus Fire

Area command (PDMC) (GOLD)

- Full Incident Management Team using ICS
  - Managing and coordinating national and provincial resources
  - Logistical and operational support to fire services

Incident Types

Incidents may be typed in order to make decisions about resource requirements. Incident types are based on the following five levels of complexity.

Type 5

- The incident can be handled with one or two single resources with up to six personnel.

- Command and General Staff positions (other than the Incident Commander) are not activated.

- No written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is required. ƒ

- The incident is contained within the first operational period and often within an hour to a few hours after resources arrive on scene.
  ƒ

- Examples include a vehicle fire, an injured person, or a police traffic stop.

Type 4

- Command staff and general staff functions are activated only if needed.

- Several resources are required to mitigate the incident. *f*

- The incident is usually limited to one operational period in the control phase.

- No written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is required but an Incident Organiser will be filled in

Type 3

- When capabilities exceed initial attack, the appropriate ICS positions should be added to match the complexity of the incident.

- Some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as   Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions.

- A Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) or incident command organization manages initial action incidents with a significant number of resources, an extended attack incident until containment/control is achieved, or an expanding incident until transition to a Type 1 or 2 team. *ƒ*

- The incident may extend into multiple operational periods. *ƒ*

- A written IAP is required for each operational period.

Type 2

- This type of incident extends beyond the capabilities for local control and is expected to go into multiple operational periods.

- A Type 2 incident may require the response of resources out of area, including provincial and/or national resources, to effectively manage the operations, command, and general staffing.

- Most or all of the Command and General Staff positions are filled. f

- A written IAP is required for each operational period.
  f
- Many of the functional units are needed and staffed.
  f
- Operations personnel normally do not exceed 200 per operational period and total incident personnel do not exceed 500 (guidelines only). f

Type 1

- This type of incident is the most complex, requiring national resources to safely and effectively manage and operate.

- All Command and General Staff positions are activated.

- Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period and total personnel will usually exceed 1,000.

- Branches need to be established.

- Use of resource advisors at the incident base is recommended.

- There is a high impact on the local jurisdiction, requiring additional staff for office administrative and support functions.

Incident Management Teams

QUESTIONS